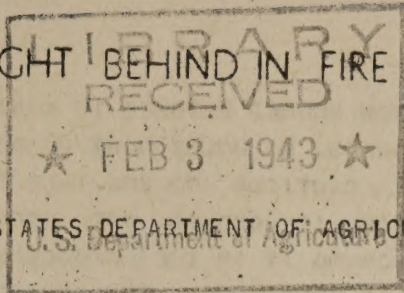


DON'T BE CAUGHT BEHIND IN FIRE PRECAUTIONS



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FARM SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

SAFETY DIGEST



# FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

## OCT. 4-11-1942

PERSONNEL DIVISION

CINCINNATI OHIO

NUMBER 11

OCTOBER 1942

### FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 4 - 11, 1942, HAS BEEN PROCLAIMED FIRE PREVENTION WEEK. IT COMMEMORATES THE GREAT CHICAGO FIRE. IT REMINDS US OF THE TREMENDOUS LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY SUSTAINED EACH YEAR BY THE DESTRUCTION AS A RESULT OF ACCIDENTAL FIRES. IT IS A TIME SET ASIDE TO MAKE A MOST THOROUGH SEARCH FOR FIRE HAZARDS AND ELIMINATE THEM AS FAR AS IT IS POSSIBLE TO DO SO. IT IS THE TIME TO ESTABLISH GOOD HOUSEKEEPING, THE LACK OF WHICH CONTRIBUTES GREATLY TO FIRE LOSSES. IT IS THE TIME TO SEE THAT ALL HEATING EQUIPMENT, BOTH TEMPORARY AND PERMANENT, IS SATISFACTORY FOR THE INTENDED PURPOSE AND INSTALLED SO AS TO CREATE NO EXPLOSION, FIRE, SUFFOCATION OR ASPHYXIATION HAZARDS. IT IS THE TIME TO SEE THAT PROPER AND ADEQUATE FIRE-FIGHTING EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES ARE AVAILABLE. IT IS THE TIME TO MAKE SURE THAT A SUFF-

ICIENT NUMBER OF MEN KNOW HOW TO USE THE FACILITIES EFFECTIVELY, AND, LASTLY, THE TIME TO PERFECT FIRE DRILLS SO AS TO ELIMINATE CONFUSION IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY. ENLIST YOUR AID IN FIRE PREVENTION WEEK THIS YEAR AND THEN MAKE EVERY WEEK YOUR PERSONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK.

### JUST ONE MINUTE!

YOU CAN READ THIS IN ONE MINUTE.

BY THE TIME YOU REACH THE LAST LINE, PROPERTY WORTH \$570 WILL HAVE BEEN DESTROYED BY FIRE SOMEWHERE IN THE UNITED STATES.

MINUTE AFTER MINUTE, DAY AFTER DAY, ON THE AVERAGE, THIS APPALLING PACE KEEPS UP, TO A GRAND YEARLY TOTAL OF \$290,000,000. THAT, AT LEAST, WAS THE RECORD IN 1941. WHAT THE SHOW-

ING WILL BE THIS YEAR, AND IN THE YEARS TO COME, DEPENDS, IN LARGE MEASURE, ON YOU.

NINETY PER CENT OF ALL FIRES ARE PREVENTABLE, FOR THEY ARE DUE TO CARELESSNESS.

TAKE A LOOK IN YOUR CELLAR, YOUR ATTIC, THAT CLOSET. CLEAR OUT THE RUBBISH—THE OLD STUFF STORED AWAY BECAUSE "MAYBE SOME DAY YOU'LL FIND A USE FOR IT". MANY FIRES ABOUT THE HOUSE ARE BORN IN TRASH FILES.

WHILE INSURANCE MARKS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PROTECTION AND DESTITUTION, EVERY AMERICAN HOME HAS ITS TREASURED POSSESSIONS WHOSE WORTH CANNOT BE COMPUTED IN TERMS OF MONEY AND CAN NEVER BE REPLACED.

A MINUTE'S THOUGHT NOW MAY SAVE THE PATIENT ACCUMULATION OF A LIFETIME FROM THE RAVAGES OF FIRE.

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 \* THE BEST WAY TO FIGHT FIRE IS TO \*  
 \* PREVENT IT FROM STARTING \*  
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AFTER ALL, IT'S CHIEFLY A MATTER OF PROTECTING YOUR OWN DWELLING AND THOSE WHOSE PRESENCE THERE MAKES IT HOME.

ISN'T IT WORTH A MINUTE TO YOU?

(NATIONAL BOARD OF FIRE UNDERWRITERS BULLETIN)

### THE STORY OF THE MATCH AND THE WASTEBASKET

IN THE DISTANT PAST THE WASTEBASKET WAS INVENTED BY SOME GOOD THOUGHTFUL PERSON WHO MUST HAVE VISUALIZED THE BENEFITS OF GOOD HOUSEKEEPING. MAYBE HE HAD SLIPPED ON A BANANA PEEL AND IN SELF-DEFENSE INVENTED THE WASTEBASKET. OR PERHAPS THE WASTEBASKET WAS INVENTED BY SOMEONE WHO HAD GROWN TIRED OF WADING THROUGH WASTE PAPER SCATTERED ALL OVER THE FLOOR.

WHATEVER THE IMPELLING CAUSE, IT IS FAIRLY CERTAIN THAT WASTEBASKETS WERE NOT INVENTED AS A PLACE TO THROW SECONDHAND MATCHES BECAUSE - WELL, FACTS INDICATE THAT THE WASTEBASKET WAS IN USE BEFORE MATCHES WERE INVENTED. ANYHOW, THE GENERAL IDEA OF THE WASTEBASKET SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN, AND STILL IS, TO LET IT COLLECT TRASH UNTIL FULL AND THEN HAVE IT DUMPED IN SOME LOCATION WHERE IT WILL NOT CAUSE A NUISANCE, AND THEN START COLLECTING TRASH ALL OVER AGAIN. IT IS A WELL ESTABLISHED FACT THAT IT WAS NOT INTENDED TO BE A STOVE TO BE FIRED WITH USED MATCHES, OR SURELY THERE WOULD BE A STOVEPIPE ON IT.

AT PRESENT IT IS A FAIRLY COMMON BUT HAZARDOUS CUSTOM TO

THROW BURNED MATCHES IN WASTEBASKETS. NO DOUBT MOST PERSONS ARE CAUTIOUS AND SEE THAT THE MATCH IS COOLED OFF BEFORE THROWING IT IN THE AFOREMENTIONED CONTAINER. NEVERTHELESS, OCCASIONALLY A WASTEBASKET CATCHES FIRE, AND NUMEROUS DISASTROUS FIRES HAVE BEEN NOTED AS ORIGINATING IN WASTEBASKETS.

IT IS AN EASY MATTER TO FIND A PLACE TO THROW BURNED MATCHES OTHER THAN IN WASTEBASKETS CONTAINING PAPER OR OTHER TRASH THAT WILL CATCH FIRE EASILY AT LOW TEMPERATURES. PRACTICALLY EVERY OFFICE OR DESK IS SUPPLIED WITH AN ASH TRAY OR A CUSPIDOR, EITHER OF WHICH IS A PROPER RECEPTACLE FOR BURNED MATCHES OR THE REMNANTS OF CIGARETTES, CIGARS OR PIPE TOBACCO. IT IS CERTAINLY WORTHWHILE TO ELIMINATE THE POSSIBILITY OF A SERIOUS FIRE BY UTILIZING THE DESIGNATED RECEPTACLES FOR DEPOSITING BURNED MATCHES AND KINDRED OBJECTS AT ANY AND ALL TIMES.

("GALVESTON CAUSEWAY")

### DELAYED BRAKING

YOU ARE DRIVING YOUR MOTOR CAR AND OBSERVE A GROUP OF CHILDREN PLAYING ALONGSIDE THE CURB AHEAD. KNOWING THE WAYS OF CHILDREN, YOU SLOW DOWN CAUTIOUSLY AS YOU APPROACH.

WHEN ALMOST OPPOSITE THE CHILDREN, SUDDENLY ONE OF THEM DASHES OUT IN FRONT OF YOU! BUT YOU ARE READY—YOU ARE GOING SLOWLY—YOU SAVE THAT LITTLE LIFE! BUT SUPPOSE YOU HAD NOT SLOWED CAUTIOUSLY AS YOU APPROACHED. SUPPOSE THAT IN SPITE OF FRANTIC EFFORTS YOU COULD NOT STOP IN TIME! THAT

WOULD HAVE BEEN DELAYED BRAKING.

A DRIVER, UNWILLING TO SLOW DOWN, WAITS UNTIL THE CRITICAL MOMENT — WAITS TOO LONG— AND SOMETIMES A LIFE IS SACRIFICED.

THERE ARE MANY EXAMPLES OF DELAYED BRAKING.

WE DO NOT SLOW AT THE INTERSECTION; SOMETHING OBSCURES ANOTHER CAR; THERE IS A CRASH. ON THE HIGHWAY WE DO NOT SLOW FOR THE SIDE ROAD AHEAD; A FARM VEHICLE APPEARS—TOO LATE FOR US TO STOP. ALTHOUGH THE ROAD AHEAD IS CONGESTED, WE THINK TRAFFIC WILL OPEN UP IN TIME; WE DO NOT SLOW DOWN; THERE IS ANOTHER ACCIDENT.

DELAYED BRAKING IS JUST ANOTHER NAME FOR RECKLESS DRIVING.

(U. S. ENGINEERS' BULLETIN —CROSSROADS)

### A LUCKY PUNCH

THE CROWD IS QUIET. THE WILD CHEERING THAT HAS ACCOMPANIED THE EIGHT ROUNDS DIES AWAY. THERE IS TENSENESS NOW.

THE CHAMP HAS HAD THE FIGHT ALL HIS WAY. HIS OPPONENT, BATTERED AND GROGGY, IS OUT ON HIS FEET.

THE CHAMP IS CONFIDENT. HE IS STILL FRESH. HIS CAREFUL TRAINING FOR THE FIGHT — THE HOURS OF SHADOW BOXING, SPARRING, BAG-PUNCHING, THE WEARY MILES OF ROAD WORK—ARE PAYING OFF. HIS CAREFULLY EXECUTED PROGRAM TO HELP HIM STAY ON TOP IS CLICKING. HE IS STILL GOING TO BE CHAMP.

\* \* \* \* \*  
\* ORCHIDS FOR SAFE DRIVERS \*  
\* WREATHS FOR THE CARELESS \*  
\* \* \* \* \*



YEP, IT'S IN THE BAG. HE TURNS TO GRIN AT HIS MANAGER IN THE CORNER. FOR A SECOND HIS GUARD IS DOWN. HE IS UNPROTECTED.

SOCK! THE CHAMP TAKES ONE RIGHT ON THE BUTT. HE SPRAWLS ON THE FLOOR — OUT COLD.

THE CROWD HEADS FOR THE EXITS, DAZED. "A LUCKY PUNCH, THAT'S ALL — A LUCKY PUNCH!" CRIES ONE FAN. "IT NEVER WOULD HAVE HAPPENED IF THE CHAMP HADN'T LOOKED AT HIS CORNER.

THE FAN IS RIGHT. IT WAS AN ACCIDENT — THE SAME KIND OF ACCIDENT THAT HAS WRECKED MANY A MAN APPARENTLY HEADED FOR A LONG AND HAPPY LIFE.

WHAT CAUSES SUCH AN ACCIDENT? OVERCONFIDENCE .. THE SAME THING THAT MADE THE CHAMPION TAKE HIS EYES OFF THE DANGER IN FRONT OF HIM.

THAT'S WHEN THE ACCIDENT HITS — WHEN YOUR GUARD IS DOWN AND YOU'RE RIDING ALONG ON PAST PERFORMANCES.

(NATIONAL SAFETY NEWS)

#### WATCH YOUR STEP

TO AVOID INJURIES FROM STAIRWAY ACCIDENTS, PARTICULARLY FALLS, PERSONS SHOULD PRACTICE THE FOLLOWING RULES:

1. TAKE ONLY ONE STEP AT A TIME.
2. NEVER RUN UP OR DOWN A STAIRWAY.
3. OBTAIN HELP IF HEAVY OR BULKY LOADS MUST BE CARRIED UP OR DOWN THE STAIRS.
4. KEEP ONE HAND FREE TO USE

THE HAND-RAIL.

5. DO NOT GO UP OR DOWN STAIRS IN THE DARK.
6. NEVER LEAVE OBJECTS OR MATERIALS ON STAIRS OR STORE THEM PRECARIOUSLY OVER A STAIRWAY.
7. REPORT IMMEDIATELY ANY ARTIFICIAL LIGHTING EQUIPMENT FOR STAIRWAYS THAT IS NOT IN GOOD OPERATING CONDITION; SUCH AS BROKEN, MISSING, OR BURNED-OUT ELECTRIC BULBS, AND DEFECTIVE SWITCHES. ("SAFE WORKER")

#### UNUSUAL ACCIDENT

A SEAMAN'S EXPLANATION FOR BEING A.W.O.L.

TO: COMMANDING OFFICER  
FROM: R. E. WILSON, SEAMAN,  
U. S. NAVY

ON SEPTEMBER 7TH, 1937, I LEFT THE SHIP ON TEN DAY'S LEAVE AND WAS AT MY BROTHER'S FARM IN KOELEIST, WISCONSIN. ON SEPTEMBER 10TH MY BROTHER'S BARN BURNED DOWN ALL EXCEPT THE BRICK SILO WHICH WAS DAMAGED AT THE TOP BY THE BOLT OF LIGHTNING WHICH STARTED THE FIRE. ON SEPTEMBER 14TH HE DECIDED TO REPAIR THIS SILO BECAUSE HE HAD TO GET HIS CORN INTO IT. I WAS GOING TO HELP HIM. I RIGGED A BARREL HOIST TO THE TOP OF THE SILO SO THAT THE NECESSARY BRICKS COULD BE HOISTED TO THE TOP OF THE SILO WHERE THE REPAIR WORK WAS GOING ON. THEN WE HAULED UP SEVERAL HUNDRED BRICKS. THIS LATER TURNED OUT TO BE TOO MANY BRICKS. AFTER MY BROTHER GOT THE BRICKWORK REPAIRED, THERE WAS STILL A LOT OF BRICK AT THE TOP OF THE SILO ON THE

WORKING PLATFORM THAT HAD BEEN BUILT. I SAID I WOULD TAKE IT ALL DOWN BELOW. I CLIMBED DOWN THE LADDER AND SECURED IT WITH A SLIP KNOT AND THEN I CLIMBED UP THE LADDER AND FIXED TO LET IT DOWN. THEN I CLIMBED BACK DOWN THE LADDER. THEN I UNTIED THE LINE TO LET THE BRICK DOWN. HOWEVER, I FOUND THE BARREL OF BRICK HEAVIER THAN I WAS, AND WHEN THE BARREL STARTED DOWN I STARTED UP. I THOUGHT OF LETTING GO, BUT BY THAT TIME I WAS SO FAR UP I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE SAFER TO HANG ON. HALFWAY UP, THE BARREL HIT ME ON THE SHOULDER PRETTY HARD, BUT I STILL HUNG ON. I WAS GOING PRETTY FAST AT THE TOP AND BUMPED MY HEAD. MY FINGERS, ALSO, GOT PINCHED IN THE PULLEY BLOCK. HOWEVER, AT THE SAME TIME, THE BARREL HIT THE GROUND AND THE BOTTOM FELL OUT OF IT, LETTING ALL THE BRICK OUT. I WAS THEN HEAVIER THAN THE BARREL AND STARTED DOWN AGAIN. I GOT BURNED ON THE LEG BY THE OTHER ROPE. SO I WENT DOWN UNTIL I MET THE BARREL, WHICH WENT BY FASTER THAN BEFORE. IT TOOK THE SKIN OFF MY SHINS. I GUESS I LANDED PRETTY HARD ON THE PILE OF BRICKS, BECAUSE AT THAT TIME I LOST MY PRESENCE OF MIND AND LET GO THE LINE, AND THE BARREL CAME DOWN AND HIT ME ON THE HEAD. THE DOCTOR WOULDN'T LET ME START BACK TO SHIP UNTIL SEPTEMBER 16TH, WHICH MADE ME TWO DAYS OVER LEAVE, WHICH I DO NOT THINK IS TOO MUCH UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

(TRINIDAD TROPICAL TOPICS)

#### SAFETY MAKES THE HEADLINES

NOT LONG AGO, A SEASONED

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\* YOUR SAFETY DEPENDS ON HOW \*  
\* CAREFUL YOU ARE, NOT HOW LUCKY \*  
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EDITOR WAS TALKING ABOUT HIS WORK. "GIVE ME SIX DIFFERENT MAGAZINES OF TOP-CIRCULATION," HE SAID, "AND LET ME LOOK AT THE ARTICLES THEY PLACE IN THE MOST PROMINENT READING POSITION. WITH THIS AS A BACK-LOG, I CAN JUDGE WHAT GENERAL TOPIC OR TREND IS PARAMOUNT IN THE LIVES OF AMERICAN PEOPLE TODAY.

HE AGREED THAT WITHIN THE PAST FEW WEEKS, SAFETY - IN EVERY ASPECT - HAS BECOME A HEADLINER IN THAT PARTICULAR BRACKET.

PERUSAL OF BIG-TIME MAGAZINES OBVIOUSLY BEARS OUT THIS POINT. FOR INSTANCE, LIFE, ABOUT A MONTH AGO, GAVE PARTICULAR TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHIC STRESS TO THE ALL-TOO-MANY INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS THAT ARE SAPPING AMERICA'S WARTIME PRODUCTION STRENGTH. THE ARTICLE STATED THAT THE 200,000,000 MAN-HOURS LOST IN 1941 ACCIDENTS WOULD OTHERWISE HAVE ACCOUNTED FOR 20,000 MEDIUM BOMBERS OR 30 BATTLESHIPS. WE NEED THEM DESPERATELY - NOW.

LIFE FURTHER STATED THAT LAST YEAR'S 20,000 INDUSTRIAL DEATHS - ONE FOR EACH BOMBER THAT COULD HAVE BEEN MADE - WERE A BLACK SPOT INDEED IN TERMS OF THE FATALITIES WHICH A SMALL AMOUNT OF CARE AND FORESIGHT MIGHT HAVE AVOIDED.

MORE RECENTLY, LIFE DEVOTED EQUALLY COGENT SPACE TO FIELD FIRST AID; ANOTHER INDICATION OF A GROWING HAZARD-TREND. IT'S IMPORTANT.

READERS DIGEST, LONG A PIONEER FOR COMMON SENSE AND SAFETY, GIVES PREDOMINANT SPACE IN

ITS CURRENT ISSUE TO AN ARTICLE ADVOCATING SAFETY GOGGLES-SHOWING, IN PART, WHERE INVESTMENT IN THESE ITEMS IS MUCH LESS EXPENSIVE THAN PAYING FOR EYE INJURIES WHICH GOGGLES COULD AVERT.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT, SURELY THE ONE PERSON ABOVE ALL WHOSE TIME MUST BE DEVOTED TO THE REAL ESSENTIALS, RECENTLY MADE AN ALL-OUT NATIONWIDE APPEAL FOR BETTER SAFETY, BETTER CONSERVATION OF MAN-POWER.

THAT, IN PART, IS THE CURRENT OUTLAY ON THE CURRENT TREND. STACK IT ALL UP FOR YOURSELF ... IN SOURCE - TIME-LINESS - THE SENSE OF IT - THE EMERGENCY. SURELY, YOUR OWN COMMON SENSE WILL CONVINCE YOU THAT SAFETY IS AN ALL IMPORTANT WAY OF LIFE. WON'T YOU HELP TO KEEP IT WORKING?

(SYRACUSE SAFETY SENTINEL)

#### THE FBI AND YOU

THE SECRET POLICE OF OUR ENEMIES HAS BEEN FUELICIZED IN PRINT, PLAYS AND PICTURES UNTIL WE ARE INCLINED TO CONSIDER THOSE ORGANIZATIONS THE ACME OF MODERN EFFICIENCY IN THE COMEATING OF OPPOSITION. THEY ARE EFFICIENT. HORRIBLY SO, THOUGH THEY WILL ONE DAY REGRET THEIR RUTHLESS METHODS. WE HAVE AN ORGANIZATION OF OUR OWN WHOSE PURPOSE IS SIMILAR AND WHOSE EFFICIENCY IS BETTER, IF FOR NO OTHER REASON THAN THAT IT IS RESPECTED. OUR FBI IS FEARED ONLY BY THOSE WHO PLACE THEMSELVES OUTSIDE THE SPHERE OF AMERICAN DECENCY, AND THOSE PERSONS INVARIABLY ARE RESTRAINED WHEN THEIR INCLINATIONS ARE BROUGHT TO THE

ATTENTION OF THIS VERY ABLE AND ACTIVE BODY OF MEN. QUIETLY AND DOGGEDLY THEY DO THEIR WORK IN SUCH A MANNER THAT WE HAVE SO FAR IN THIS WAR BEEN SPARED THE EMBARRASSMENT OF ORGANIZED SABOTAGE SUCH AS WAS INFLICTED ON US IN WORLD WAR 1. INDIVIDUAL CASES OF UN-AMERICAN EFFORT HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED AND DISCOURAGED DEFINITELY. SUCH INSTANCES ARE COMPARATIVELY EASY TO HANDLE FOR THEY UNQUESTIONABLY FALL UNDER FBI JURISDICTION. THERE IS HOWEVER, STILL THAT MENACE TO OUR PROGRAM, THAT STUMELING ELOCK TO PROGRESS, THAT SACOTEUR OF SUCCESS CALLED CARELESSNESS. THAT IS ONE ENEMY THAT THE FBI CAN'T CLAP IN THE KLINK. THAT IS WHERE YOUR EFFORT AND MY EFFORT CAN BE AS EFFECTIVE AS THAT OF THE FBI. YOU CAN PREVENT WASTE. YOU CAN SAVE LIFE, TIME AND MONEY. YOU CAN STOP SABOTAGE BY JUST BEING CAREFUL. TRY IT AND HELP TO VICTORY.

(YE SAFTIE CRIER)

#### SHORT-SHOOT

"INJURY," SAID THE WORKMAN.  
"INATTENTION," SAID THE FOREMAN.  
"INFLAMMATION," SAID THE PHYSICIAN.  
"INCURABLE," SAID THE HOSPITAL.  
"INCREDIBLE," SAID THE MOORNERS.  
"INTERRED," SAID THE UNDERTAKER.  
"IN PEACE," SAID THE TOMESTONE.  
(WINDY CITY BREEZE)

#### AN AGE-OLD DUTY

"IT IS THE DUTY OF EVERY MAN TO PROTECT HIMSELF AND THOSE ASSOCIATED WITH HIM FROM ACCIDENTS WHICH MAY RESULT IN INJURY OR DEATH."

—ABRAHAM LINCOLN

\* \* \* \* \*  
\* ACCIDENTS ARE MAN'S DOING \*  
\* AND UNDOING \*  
\* \* \* \* \*